

Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh> contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology October 2010

Overall, the Great Lakes basin experienced below average precipitation during the past month. The Lake Ontario basin was the only basin to receive near average precipitation in October. Likewise, precipitation over the past 12 months has been below average in all of the basins except for the Lake Ontario basin which has been near average the past year. Due to the lack of precipitation in October, the net supply of water to the Lake Superior basin and Lake Michigan-Huron basin was below average. Lake Erie and Ontario saw above average water supplies in October. The tables below list October precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

When compared to their October long-term (1918-2009) average water levels, Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron were 13 and 15 inches below average, respectively. Lake St. Clair was 6 inches below average while Lake Erie was 4 inches below average. Lake Ontario's level was near average in October.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	October				12-Month Comparison			
	2010	Average	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average	Diff.	% of Average
		(1900-2008)				(1900-2008)		
Superior	2.16	2.86	-0.70	76	26.53	30.51	-3.98	87
Michigan-Huron	1.80	2.87	-1.07	63	29.27	32.44	-3.17	90
Erie	2.41	2.77	-0.36	87	33.35	35.40	-2.05	94
Ontario	3.03	3.10	-0.07	98	34.85	35.71	-0.86	98
Great Lakes	2.13	2.88	-0.75	74	29.76	32.64	-2.88	91

LAKE	October WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		October OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2010	Average ⁴ (1900-1999)	2010	Average ³ (1900-1999)
Superior	-39,000	39,000	55,000	81,000
Michigan-Huron	-79,000	2,000	178,000	192,000
Erie	-17,000	-23,000	187,000	199,000
Ontario	29,000	7,000	245,000	243,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

² Does not include diversions.

³ Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2003, respectively

⁴ Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989